

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-11 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00

FCC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-05 USIA-06 COME-00 BIB-01

NSC-05 SS-15 ACDA-05 DODE-00 PM-04 L-03 NASA-01

OES-03 SP-02 /083 W

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P R 021335Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3645

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, OVIP, BR

SUBJECT: VISIT OF JOHN EGER, ACTING DIR./OFFICE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS
POLICY/EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

REF: (A) STATE 002588, (B) STATE 007947

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY CONSIDERES EGER VISIT UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS
IN OPENING CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN MOST SENIOR
LEVELS OF USG AND GOB IN FIELD OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY.
FORMAL AND INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH GOB OFFICIALS FROM
APPROPRIATE MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES, WHILE GENERAL IN NATURE,
SERVED TO CLARIFY BROAD POSITIONS AND THRUSTS OF BOTH
GOVERNMENTS IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS FIELD. EMBASSY
DESIRES TO MAINTAIN AND EXPAND THIS DIALOGUE. END SUMMARY.

2. MR. JOHN EGER, ACTING DIRECTOR OFFICE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY,
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VISITED RIO DE JANEIRO, JANUARY 24-26, AND BRASILIA, JANUARY 27. MR. EGER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MR. WILLIAM L. FISHMAN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/OTP/EOP, AND COL. CHARLES SHEPHERD, MILITARY ASSISTANT/OTPEOP. DURING THEIR STAY IN RIO, MR. EGER AND PARTY MET WITH EMBRATEL PRESIDENT HAROLDO CORREA DE MATTOA FOR A GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON EMBRATEL'S OPERATIONS, WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS LINKS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND BRAZIL, AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL SERVICE PROVIDED BY EMBRATEL. IN BRASILIA, MR. EGER AND PARTY MET FOR COMPREHENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS DMDTE. EUCLIDES QUANDT DE OLIVEIRA; MINISTER SERGIO ROUANET, ACTING HEAD OF THE FOREIGN MIISTRY'S ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT, AND WITH TELEGRAS PRESIDENT GEN. ANTONIO ALENCASTRO E SILVA AND THE TELEBRAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

3. THE MOST FRUITFUL OF THESE MEETINGS WAS WITH MINISTER QUANDT WHO EXPRESSED A STRONG INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING PERSONAL CONTACT WITH U.S. OFFICIALS IN THIS FIELD. QUANDT DISCUSSED AT LENGTH THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY MAKING PROCESS WITHIN THE GOB, THE INTERRELATIONSHIP OF THE MINISTRY WITH TELEBRAS AND EMBRATEL, THE GOB'S PRIORITY OF EXPANDING AND FACILITATING ACCESS TO THE NATIONAL TELEPHONE SYSTEM, AND THE GOB'S PREFERENCE FOR A MULTILATERAL APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS ISSUES (WITH WHICH MR. EGER AND HIS PARTY AGREED). QUANDT ALSO DESCRIBED MAJOR PROJECTS SUCH AS THE FORTALEZA-VIRGIN ISLANDS SUBMARINE CABLE, RADIO MONITORING SYSTEM, AND THE DOMESTIC COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE (DCS). ACCORDING TO QUANDT, DCS WAS ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED AS A SYSTEM TO EXTEND EDUCATIONAL TC THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY BUT THE EXORBITANT COSTS OF EXPANDING GROUND TRANSMISSION AND RECEPTION FACILITIES MADE THE IDEA UNFEASIBLE. THE CONCEPT OF DCS WAS THEN CONVERTED TO ONE OF "NATIONAL INTEGRATION" BY WHICH REMOTE AREAS OF THE COUNTRY WOULD BE INCORPORATED INTO THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS NET WORK. QUANDT ESTIMATED THAT FINAL APPROVAL FROM PRES. GEISEL FOR THE DCS PROJECT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING WITHIN A FEW WEEKS. (COMMENT: THIS EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE BY QUANDT CONTRACTS WITH PRESS REPORTS COVERING THE VISIT OF FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES. ACCORDING TO ONE NEWSPAPER (JORNAL E BRAZIL, JANUARY 30). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE FRENCH MINISTER OF FOREIGN COMMERCE, IN DISCUSSIONS WITH QUANDT, EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THE DCS. QUANDT APPARENTLY TURNED THESE ADVANCES ASIDE BY SIMPLY STATING THAT NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE TO GO AHEAD WITH THE PROJECT. THE PAPER COMMENTS THAT THE PROJECT WILL PROBABLY BE SUBMITTED TO PRES. GEISEL FOR HIS APPROVAL IN FEBRUARY BUT NOTES THAT THERE ARE DOUBTS CONCERNING THE VIABILITY OF THE PROJECT, AT LEAST WITHIN THE ESTABLISHED

TIME FRAME, IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT IMPORT RESTRICTIONS AND BRAZIL'S UNFAVORABLE BALANCE OF TRADE.)

4. OF POLICY ISSUES, THE MOST IMPORTANT ITEM SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSED DURING THE MEETINGS WAS THE QUESTION OF THE U.S. POSITION AT THE FORTHCOMING INMARSAT CONFERENCE IN LONDON. BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN OVER THE EFFECT THE LAUNCHING OF THE U.S. DOMESTIC MARITIME SATELLITE (MARISAT) WILL HAVE ON THE U.S. STAND ON INMARSAT. GOB REPRESENTATIVES INDICATED THAT THE HIGH COST OF BUILDING A GROUND STATION TO PARTICIPATE IN MARSAT, AND THE PRIORITY OF EXPANDING THE DOMESTIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS NET WORK, COULD WELL PRECLUDE JOINING THE MARISAT SYSTEM.

5. EMBASSY MOST PLEASED WITH RESULTS OF VISIT, PARTICULARLY WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIRECT POLICY-LEVEL CONTACTS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND RESPONSIBLE GOB OFFICIALS IN THIS IMPORTANT SECTOR. EMBASSY WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP THESE CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATIONS OPEN AND TO THIS END REQUESTS THAT THE DEPARTMENT, OTP, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE AGENCIES KEEP US FULLY INFORMED ON U.S. POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS FIELD AND PROVIDE US WITH SUGGESTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO ASSIST IN MAINTAINING AND EXPANDING THIS CHANNEL FOR POLICY AS WELL AS COMMERCIAL PURPOSES.
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